

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:299
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005
VILLAGE DEFENCE COMMITTEES
Masood Shri Rasheed

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Village Defence Committees engaged in the anti-terrorist campaign in Jammu & Kashmir;
- (b) whether members of these Committees have been equipped with sophisticated weapons;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard;
- (d) the number of members of the Village Defence Committees killed by the terrorists during each of the last three years, till date; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen these Village Defence Committees?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (c): As per information made available by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the number of Village Defence Committees (VDCs) functioning in the State is 3770. The Committee Members are equipped with arms/ammunitions like .303 rifles/Self Loading Rifles and Bolt action rifles.

(d): Fifty eight VDC members have been killed in militancy related violence during the last three years and till November 2005. The break up is: 20 in 2002, 16 in 2003 and 04 in 2004. The number killed till November 2005 is 18.

(e): The State Government has informed that whenever required these VDCs are being strengthened with weaponry and communication facilities. Wireless sets have been provided to VDC members in far-flung areas and on the spot training is also being given.